



**August 2005**

To: Heads of all Learning & Culture Establishments  
Cc's: Governors/Management Committees  
Trade Union Safety Representatives  
Employee Notice boards  
Learning & Culture Intranet



## **ANIMAL SAFETY**

### **Dogs On Site**

**Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA90)**  
**Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (As amended)**  
**The Disability Discrimination Act 1995**  
**The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996**  
**The Education Act 1996**

#### **Introduction**

Dogs whether they are on a lead or loose, present particular risks to health and safety on educational sites. They may carry diseases / organisms in or on their bodies. They have been known to attack individuals, both adults and children.

**The County Council does not allow the exercising of dogs on its sites**

#### **General**

Before allowing a dog onto a Learning & Culture site, the Head of the Establishment concerned must undertake a Risk Assessment this must cover risks associated with dogs being present on the site.

#### **What does a Head of Establishment need to consider?**

- Do we need to have dogs on site?
- Who may be exposed? i.e. employees, members of the public, pupils;
- What could go wrong? biting, scratching, fleas, dog faeces & urine etc;
- What influence will a person have on the animal?  
(N.B. Handlers may underestimate the risks due to their familiarity with the animal);
- How can organisms be transmitted to humans?  
e.g. hand-to-mouth / eye contact, bites and / or scratches and jumping from host?
- Where will the dog be kept?
- What areas will the dog visit?



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## Dog Fouling and the Law

The Environmental Protection Act places a duty on a Governing Body to ensure that any land under its control is kept clear of litter and refuse. The definition of “litter” includes dog faeces. Governors, therefore, are responsible for “waste management” on a school site and they need to ensure that all dog faeces are disposed of safely.

Dog fouling is unpleasant, unhygienic and can cause serious illness and injury particularly to children. As dog faeces can carry diseases and parasites that could harm children such risks should be eliminated or minimised wherever possible.



## What Legal Powers does the County Council have?

It is a criminal offence under the Education Act 1996 for anyone to cause a nuisance or disturbance on educational premises. Additionally the County Council has the power, under The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, to make bye-laws forcing dog owners to clear-up after their dogs, keep their dogs on leads or to ban them from such places as children’s playgrounds.

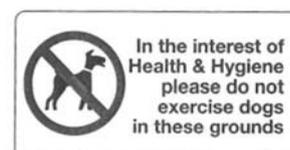
## Stray Dogs On / Off-Site

Any dog may reasonably be treated as a stray if it is roaming freely and not under the control of any person.

## What Action Does the Head of Establishment Need to Take?

The following control measures may be implemented to prevent dogs from entering onto Learning & Culture premises:

- Contact Legal Services who can write to trespassers exercising dogs, threatening legal proceedings if trespassing persists.
- Contact the police if there are concerns about a stray dog on the premises;
- Contact the Local District / City Council will make arrangements for the dog to be collected;
- Dog-proof fencing and self-closing gates;
- Signs informing owners that dogs are not allowed, giving information on potential hazards of dogs to children;
- Preventing animal fouling of play sand by providing a raised sand pit.
- Covers must also be provided for sand pits when they are not in use.



## Hygiene practices

Dog owners should be advised that they should use a Poop Scoop or a plastic bag to pick up the mess and either take it home or dispose of it in specified Dog or Litter bins.

Refer to the “*Principles of Good Hygiene Practice*” procedure for further information on the safe disposal of dog faeces:

<http://portal.oxfordshire.gov.uk/content/public/LandC/Resources/healthsafe/h/hygpri.pdf>

## Guide Dogs on County Council Sites

The Disability Discrimination Act requires employers to make reasonable adjustments to the workplace to facilitate the employment of a person with a disability. An employee's guide dog being permitted on a County Council site would be deemed reasonable.

Access for members of the public needing assistance from a guide dog would also be deemed reasonable. The establishment would need to make reasonable provision to accommodate both the owners' and dogs' needs.



### For Further Information and Advice:

#### Specialist:

Oxfordshire County Council Legal Services		Tel – <b>01865 815366</b>
Oxford City Council	Dog Warden Service	Tel – <b>01865 467291</b>
Cherwell District Council	Dog Warden Service	Tel – <b>01295 221633</b>
South Oxfordshire District Council	Dog Fouling	Tel – <b>01491 823221</b>
Vale of White Horse District Council	Dog Fouling	Tel – <b>01235 540375</b>
West Oxfordshire District Council	Dog Control Service	Tel – <b>01993 770345</b>

**General:** Learning & Culture Health & Safety Team Tel - **01865 816464**